

From: Bob Greene
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 3:09pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Sirs:

Microsoft's offer to supply software and hardware to schools is pure marketing. In doing so, they are extending their monopoly and creating an additional revenue stream that will pay out as schools are forced to upgrade existing software to match Microsoft's ever changing file formats. This will also likely bind schools to Microsoft's present and future licensing schemes where the software becomes cost prohibitive.

A far more equitable solution would be to place the cash at the school's disposal and let the normal rules of consumer choice apply. The schools could exercise their judgement to purchase Microsoft's products or those of a competitor as they see fit.

Regards,

Bob Greene